



**Bennett Institute
for Public Policy**
Cambridge

Policy for the future: Fairness, equity and democracy

Bennett Institute Conference 2019

Churchill College, Cambridge
15 April 2019





The Bennett Institute for Public Policy launched on 16 April 2018 at Churchill College, Cambridge.

The Institute was founded through a major gift from Cambridge alumnus and philanthropist Peter Bennett to find solutions to some of the greatest challenges facing society in the 21st century including new patterns of inequality and social unrest emerging around the globe.

Our goal is to rethink public policy in an era of turbulence and growing inequality. Our research connects the world-leading work in technology and science at Cambridge with the economic and political dimensions of policy-making. We are committed to outstanding teaching, policy engagement, and to devising sustainable and long-lasting solutions.

Policy for the future: Fairness, equity and democracy

Bennett Institute Conference 2019

Churchill College, Cambridge
Monday 15 April 2019 | 9.15am – 7.00pm

Our 2019 Bennett Conference for Public Policy explores practical ways in which policy can evolve to create a fairer and more equitable future. And how can we do this whilst wrestling with some of the seismic democratic disruptions that have shaken the world in recent years? On this theme our keynote talk will be from Dr Ben Goldacre (University of Oxford), doctor, best-selling author, academic and campaigner. He will be talking with Michael Blastland, author, journalist, and BBC Radio 4 broadcaster, who will chair the keynote.

The conference will highlight some of the work we have launched at the Bennett Institute during the past twelve months. We are delighted to be partnering with the Centre for Science and Policy (CSaP) and Churchill College, with whom we have been exploring the intersection of science and policy.



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Timetable

09.15 – 09.45	COFFEE & REGISTRATION
09.45 – 10.00	Welcome with Professor Michael Kenny (Director of the Bennett Institute)
Panel 1 10.00 – 11.15	The Wealth Economy: Social & Natural Capital Chair: Professor Sir David King Speakers: Matthew Agarwala (University of Cambridge) Dimitri Zenghelis (University of Cambridge) Dr Yan Zhang (University of Cambridge)
11.15 – 11.45	COFFEE
Panel 2 11.45 – 13.00	What kinds of innovation policies and industrial strategy are most likely to sustain spatially inclusive and socially equitable economies? Chair: Dr Tony Curzon Price (BEIS) Speakers: Sir Richard Leese (Greater Manchester Combined Authority) Dr Penny Mealy (University of Cambridge) Dr Eoin O’Sullivan (University of Cambridge)
13.00 – 14.00	LUNCH
Panel 3 14.00 – 15.15	Predicting Global Risks (<i>Session conducted under Chatham House Rule</i>) Chair: Dr Emma Hennessey (FCO) Speakers: Dr Catherine Rhodes (University of Cambridge) Professor Richard Sandford (UCL Institute for Sustainable Heritage) Seth Thomas (Bank of England)
15:15 – 15.45	COFFEE
Panel 4 15.45 – 17:00	Who Decides? Tech companies vs. the Democratic state Chair: Professor David Runciman (University of Cambridge) Speakers: Professor Emily Bell (University of Columbia) Dr Laura James (University of Cambridge) Josh Simons (University of Harvard)
17.00 – 17.15	SHORT BREAK
17.15 – 18.15	Keynote: Dr Ben Goldacre (University of Oxford) Q/A with Michael Blastland
18.15 – 18.30	Prizegiving & Closing Speeches led by Professor Diane Coyle
18.30 – 19.15	DRINKS RECEPTION

Conference speakers

In order of appearance.



Professor Michael Kenny is the Inaugural Director of the Bennett Institute for Public Policy. Professor Kenny leads research in place and public policy, and re-making government in the 21st century. Before he arrived in Cambridge, Michael held positions at: Queen's University, Belfast; the University of Sheffield, where he was appointed Head of Department; and Queen Mary University of London, where he was the inaugural Director of the Mile End Institute. He is currently a Visiting Fellow at the UCL's Constitution Unit, sits on the Leverhulme Trust's Advisory Committee, is co-director of the British Academy's "Governing England" programme, and is a member of an external experts panel convened by the Scottish Parliament to advise on the constitutional implications of Brexit.



Professor Sir David King is a Partner of SYSTEMIQ and Senior Strategy Adviser to the President of Rwanda. He was the UK Government Chief Scientific Adviser, 2000-2007, the Foreign Secretary's Special Representative on Climate Change, 2013-2017, working with 165 Climate Change Attaches in UK Embassies, and Chair of Future Cities Catapult, 2012-2016. He travelled widely to persuade all countries to take action on climate change. He initiated an in-depth risk analysis approach to climate change, working with the Governments of China and India in particular (Climate Change: a Risk Assessment), and initiated a collaborative programme, now known as Mission Innovation, to create a \$25bn pa research and development international exercise, which involves 22 countries and the EC, to deliver all technologies needed to complete the transition into a fossil-fuel-free world economy.



Matthew Agarwala is the Research Leader for the Bennett Institute's Wealth Economy project. He is an environmental economist whose work on measuring and delivering sustainability crosses sectors and disciplines. His co-authors include ecologists, anthropologists, members of UK Parliament, and Nobel Laureates in peace, medicine, physics, and chemistry. Matthew enjoys simultaneous affiliations in the Department of Geography and Environment (LSE) and the Centre for Social and Economic Research on the Global Environment (CSERGE, UEA), and maintains active collaborations in Canada, Hong Kong, Germany, USA, and Japan. Matthew's policy-oriented work includes consulting for governments, scientific bodies, the United Nations, the European Commission on topics of natural capital, ecosystem services, and sustainability.



Dimitri Zenghelis is leader of the Bennett Institute project The Wealth Economy. He is also a Senior Visiting Fellow at the Grantham Research Institute at the LSE where, from 2013-2017, he was Head of Climate Policy. In 2014 he was Acting Chief Economist for the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate (a.k.a The New Climate Economy). Previously, he was recently Senior Economic Advisor to Cisco's long-term innovation group and an Associate Fellow at the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House. Before working on climate change, Dimitri was at HM Treasury including four years as Head of Economic Forecasting where he provided regular briefings to the Chancellor Gordon Brown and Prime Minister Tony Blair.



Dr Yan Zhang is a visiting fellow at the Bennett Institute. She currently works as the British Academy Research Fellow at the Centre of Development Studies, University of Cambridge, where she also serves as the Research Associate at the China Centre of Jesus College and Bye-Fellow of Newnham College. Yan has also six years' first-hand work experience of public policy and practice in the Chinese government. Her Monograph "Governing the Commons in China" by the Routledge Studies on the Chinese Economy series was published in 2017. Yan's research focuses on water, renewable energy, innovation and cities, with a geographical emphasis on East Asia, Southeast Asia, and China.



Dr Tony Curzon Price is the Economic Advisor to the Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. He worked closely on the elaboration of the Industrial Strategy White Paper. He has previously worked for the Financial Conduct Authority and the Competition and Markets Authority. He founded Arithmatica, a silicon design company, and spent five years building the company in the Bay Area; he transformed openDemocracy into a not-for-profit editors' cooperative for comment, analysis and investigation. He wrote his PhD on game theory and market design with Ken Binmore at UCL.



Sir Richard Leese was elected to Manchester City Council in 1984. He became Leader of the Council in 1996. Richard's political interests include devolution, place-based budgets and the links between economic development and social policy, developing open democracy and the community leadership role of local authorities; and the role of cities in creating a sustainable future. He has a number of additional responsibilities including Director of Manchester Airport Holdings Ltd, Deputy Mayor and Vice Chair of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Chair of the LGA City Regions Board.



Dr Penny Mealy is a Research Associate at the Bennett Institute for Public Policy. She is also a Research Fellow at the Institute of New Economic Thinking at the Oxford Martin School, and the Smith School of Environment and Enterprise. Seeking to better understand the economy as a complex system, Penny's research looks at novel, data-driven ways of analysing economic growth and development, occupational mobility, and the transition to the green economy. Penny also leads the Bennett Institute project on 'Practical wisdom in a complex world', which is exploring what the Aristotelian notion of 'living well' might mean in the context of the complex adaptive systems that shape our lives.



Dr Eoin O'Sullivan is Director of the Centre for Science, Technology & Innovation Policy (CSTI) at the University of Cambridge. Eoin O'Sullivan joined the Institute for Manufacturing as a Senior Policy Fellow in 2007. Since then Eoin has carried out research on the ways science and engineering R&D is translated in new technologies, industries and economic wealth. Eoin's policy-related activities have included studies for the UK Department of Business, Innovation & Skills; the Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council; the UK Government Office of Science; the Technology Strategy Board; and the Higher Education Funding Council of England.



Dr Emma Hennessey is currently head of No Deal Mitigations, EU Exit, at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and is due to move on to be Deputy Head of US, Canada and Caribbean Department in April 2019. Until January 2019, Emma was Acting Head of Global Economic Issues Department and Deputy Chief Scientific Adviser at the FCO. She was also Head of the FCO/BEIS-funded Science and Innovation Network, providing leadership to the network of around 100 officers in over 50 countries worldwide to ensure they support, and build upon, the UK's international science and innovation priorities. She was responsible for supporting FCO's Chief Scientific Adviser, including embedding the use of international science and innovation as a source of UK soft power and for science communications. She managed the FCO's Illegal Wildlife Trade Team, part of a cross-Government team that delivered a major international Illegal Wildlife Trade conference in October 2018.



Dr Catherine Rhodes is Executive Director of the Centre for the Study of Existential Risk and Senior Research Associate with the new Biosecurity Research Initiative at St Catharine's College (BioRISC). Her work has broadly focused on the interactions between and respective roles of science and governance in addressing major global challenges. In the context of extreme technological risks, Catherine is particularly interested in understanding the intersection and combination of risk stemming from technologies and risk stemming from governance (or lack of it). She has particular expertise in international governance of biotechnology, including biosecurity and broader risk management issues.



Richard Sandford is Professor of Heritage Evidence, Foresight and Policy at UCL's Institute for Sustainable Heritage. Previously, Richard led a team in the DIT Ministerial Strategy Directorate focusing on horizon scanning and strategic analysis. Prior to that, he was Head of Horizon Scanning in the Government Office for Science, where he worked with Cabinet Office and GO-Science colleagues to deliver the UK government's Horizon Scanning Programme. Richard's focus was developing strategic futures capacity across the Civil Service. Before joining the civil service Richard was based in Singapore, where he designed and facilitated foresight workshops on the future of work, education and innovation across Asia, the US and Europe. Richard has been a Policy Fellow of the Centre for Science and Policy at the University of Cambridge.



Seth Thomas works in the Bank of England's global engagement division. He specialises in international regulatory policy & strategy – important to an open economy such as the UK's; the Bank's interactions with the relevant international institutions; and leads on the Bank's international political risk work. Before joining the Bank, he served on two Welsh Government ministerial panels covering SME financing and industrial policy. This built upon nearly two decades of experience in international banking and strategy consultancy, most recently in Citi's Public Sector Group where he held senior global and UK roles. He was also a member of the founding Masters in Public Policy class at the Blavatnik School of Government and Seth is a Continuing Fellow of the Centre for Science and Policy at the University of Cambridge.



David Runciman is Professor of Politics at Cambridge University and a Fellow of Trinity Hall. His books include *Political Hypocrisy*, *The Confidence Trap* and *How Democracy Ends*. He writes regularly about contemporary politics for the London Review of Books and he hosts the popular weekly podcast Talking Politics. He was joint-PI on two major research projects based in Cambridge: Conspiracy and Democracy, and Technology and Democracy. He currently works with the Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence and in October 2019 will be launching the Centre for the Future of Democracy at the Bennett Institute.



Professor Emily Bell is founding director of the Tow Center for Digital Journalism at Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism and a leading thinker, commentator and strategist on digital journalism. Established in 2010, the Tow Center has rapidly built an international reputation for research into the intersection of technology and journalism. The majority of Bell's professional career was spent at Guardian News and Media in London working as an award winning writer and editor both in print and online. As editor-in-chief across Guardian websites and director of digital content for Guardian News and Media, Bell led the web team in pioneering live blogging, podcasting, multimedia formats, data and social media, making the Guardian an internationally awarded beacon of digital transformation.



Dr Laura James is Entrepreneur in Residence at the University of Cambridge Computer Laboratory, catalysing multidisciplinary research and activities around trust and technology, and also Technology Principal at Doteveryone. She has spent nearly twenty years exploring cutting edge internet technologies and turning them into useful products and systems, in technology and leadership roles in diverse contexts. Laura holds Masters and PhD degrees in Engineering from the University of Cambridge, and is a Chartered Engineer. She was VP Engineering at AlertMe, a connected home startup; on the management team at Evi, an AI startup acquired by Amazon to become Alexa; CEO of Open Knowledge International, a civil society network opening up information for all; and COO at CARET, delivering mission-critical innovative software for the University of Cambridge. Laura co-founded Makespace, a community workshop; Field Ready, an NGO meeting humanitarian need through local manufacturing; and the Digital Life Collective, a tech co-operative.



Josh Simons a graduate student in Government at Harvard University. His research argues that machine learning is political: it requires institutions to make choices, from which some win and some lose, and which shape the distribution of power over time. Josh also works as a Research Assistant at the Bennett Institute on the Future of Democracy project and with the Centre for Internet and Society in India, exploring how data is used to target welfare to citizens in India. Josh formerly worked as a Policy Advisor for the Labour Party in Parliament and graduated with a double first in Politics from Cambridge University.



Ben Goldacre is a doctor, best-selling author, academic and campaigner. His work focuses on uses and misuses of science and statistics by journalists, politicians, drug companies and quacks. His book *Bad Science* reached #1 in the UK non-fiction charts and has sold over half a million copies worldwide. He has published extensively in all major newspapers and various academic journals, and appears regularly on radio and TV from Newsnight to QI. He has written government papers and reports on evidence based policy, founded a successful global campaign for research transparency, and currently works as an academic in the University of Oxford, where he runs the EBMdataLab building live data tools to make science and medicine better, like OpenPrescribing and OpenTrials.



Michael Blastland Michael Blastland is a writer and broadcaster. He was the originator and first producer of BBC Radio 4's More or Less, Britain's most authoritative guide to numbers and evidence in public argument. He is the bestselling author of *The Tiger That Isn't: Seeing Through a World of Numbers*, a book about numbers and how to interpret them, which he co-authored with Andrew Dilnot. He also wrote *The Norm Chronicles*, co-authored with Professor David Spiegelhalter.



Professor Diane Coyle co-directs the Bennett Institute with Professor Kenny. She is heading research in the fields of public policy economics, technology, industrial strategy and global inequality. Diane was previously Professor of Economics at the University of Manchester and has held a number of public service roles including Vice Chair of the BBC Trust (2006-2014), member of the Competition Commission (2001-2009), and member of the Migration Advisory Committee (2009-2014). She is currently a member of the Natural Capital Committee, an expert adviser to the National Infrastructure Commission and a member of the Council of Economic Advisers. She was awarded a CBE for her contribution to the public understanding of economics in the 2018 New Year Honours.

Bennett Prospect Public Policy Prize

As part of the conference proceedings we are delighted to announce the winner of the 2018/19 Bennett Prospect Public Policy Prize, which will be awarded by Mr Peter Bennett following the keynote.

The Bennett Institute is dedicated to educating and nurturing the next generation of policy leaders, allowing them to develop the analytical skills that are needed to develop innovative answers to the most demanding questions of our times, and to do the kinds of deeper, longer-term thinking which these issues require.

With these goals in mind, we announced this new £10,000 prize in partnership with Prospect magazine for early career policy analysts and professionals.

Winner:

**Moving the Knowledge Economy:
Establishing a CRAFT House Network**
Eric Lybeck (University of Manchester)

2018/19 runners up:

The case for a place-driven approach
Elena Bagnera (Centre for Public Impact)

**Regionally Adjusted Domestic Product -
A New Statistic for Seeing the Shape of the Economy**
Edward Pemberton (University of Sheffield)

Local missions: the place-based strategic investment supporting a “peripheral UK”
Connor Mckenzie (MillionPlus)

The rationale for and design of the Place Premium
Jamie Thunder (WPI Economics)

Our 2018/19 question was:

“What kinds of policies will enable left behind places to catch-up?”

Our winner is Eric Lybeck, Leverhulme Early Career Fellow at the Manchester Institute of Education at the University of Manchester. Eric’s proposal advocated for plans to promote growth in the knowledge economy in left behind places, you can read his article in Prospect online: www.prospectmagazine.co.uk

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www.bennettinstitute.cam.ac.uk

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